Saskatchewan
Ministry of
Agriculture

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All stated cattle prices are based on the weekly Canfax Market Outlook and Summary.
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Cattle Market Update

For the Week Ending February 15, 2013

All prices are quoted in Canadian dollars per hundredweight ($/cwt) unless otherwise stated.

Feeder Cattle

Steers

	Range	Average	Change from last week
300-400	162-179	169.00	+3.75
400-500	149-172	158.64	-3.49
500-600	141-165	150.94	-1.00
600-700	132-149	139.75	-0.89
700-800	125-139	132.43	-1.26
800-900	120-133	126.25	-1.92
900+	116-127	121.96	-1.71

Heifers

	Range	Average	Change from last week
300-400	-	-	-
400-500	132-154	140.56	-3.22
500-600	125-142	133.44	-2.49
600-700	119-134	125.17	-0.72
700-800	115-126	119.70	+0.20
800+	110-119	114.50	-2.50

Source: Canfax.
Note: Prices are determined from Saskatchewan auction marts' reports of sale results from Thursday of the previous week to Thursday of the current week.

Canfax reported that 21,886 head of cattle were sold in Saskatchewan this week, up from 11,181 head marketed during the previous week.

In general, feeder cattle prices decreased from the previous week as fed cattle prices struggle to move higher at this time of year. Cattle feeders are facing high breakeven prices on current inventory and wholesale beef cutout values remain under pressure. The U.S. feeder cattle futures contracts moved lower during the past week and the result was lower cash prices for feeder cattle. Compared to U.S. feeder cattle prices, the weekly price change in Western Canada was smaller than the decline in U.S. cash feeder cattle prices which continue to be affected by on-going drought conditions throughout the U.S. Midwest. As a result, the Saskatchewan 750 lb. feeder steer basis compared to the February 14, 2013 U.S. feeder cattle index at US$142.03 per cwt was calculated at -$9.60 per cwt, an improvement of $2.53 per cwt from the previous week.

The benchmark 500-600 lb. feeder steer average price decreased $1.00 per cwt to $150.94 per cwt while the 500-600 lb. feeder heifer average price decreased $2.49 per cwt to $133.44 per cwt. The steer to heifer price spread increased to $17.50 per cwt compared to $16.01 per cwt the previous week.

Fed and Non-fed Cattle

	February 15	February 8	Change
Steers			
Live	n/a	n/a	n/a
Rail	n/a	n/a	n/a
Heifers			
Live	n/a	n/a	n/a
Rail	n/a	n/a	n/a
Cows (Alberta)			
D1,2 Live	73.90	72.56	+1.34
D3 Live	65.75	65.15	+0.60
Rail	140.00-145.00	140.00-145.00	0

Source: Canfax.

Prices for liveweight, non-fed cattle in Alberta were higher from the previous week with D1,2 slaughter cows increasing $1.34 per cwt to average $73.90 per cwt, while D3 slaughter cows increased $0.60 per cwt to average $65.75 per cwt.

Fed cattle prices in Western Canada moved lower with the price of fed steers in Alberta reported at $114.89 per cwt, down 1.2 per cent from $116.33 per cwt the previous week. The fed cattle basis (Alberta cash to U.S. 5-area cash) was calculated at -$8.67 per cwt.

The live (FOB feedlot) weighted average 5-area (Texas/Oklahoma/New Mexico, Kansas, Nebraska, Colorado and Iowa/Minnesota) weekly fed steer price in the U.S. was reported at US$122.81 per cwt, down 1.6 per cent from US$124.87 per cwt the previous week. The dressed (delivered basis) price for U.S. steers delivered to plants in the 5-area was reported at US$195.76 per cwt, down 2.0 per cent from US$199.84 per cwt the previous week.

Average beef cutout values (Choice 600-900 lb.) for the week ending February 16 averaged US$183.07 per cwt, down slightly from US$183.31 per cwt the previous week, and down 3.2 per cent from US$189.04 per cwt for the same week a year ago.

U.S. beef production last week for the week ending February 16 was estimated at 476.7 million lb., up 0.8 per cent from 472.8 million lb. during the previous week, but down 0.7 per cent from 480.1 million lb. a year ago.

United States Beef Exports

United States exported 90,789 metric tons of beef plus beef variety meats in December 2012, down 16.5 per cent from 108,691 metric tons in December 2011. By dollar volume, U.S. beef exports in December 2012 were $461.2 million, down 3.1 per cent from December 2011. United States total exports of beef plus beef variety meats for 2012 were down 11.9 per cent by volume, but up 1.7 per cent by dollar amount, compared to 2011.

Friday Price Information

Product		This Week (February 15)	Week of: (February 8)
Canadian Dollar (closing rate US$)		.9939	.9973
United States Dollar Index		80.469	80.227
U.S. Cash Cattle			
Thurs. Feeder Cattle (FC) Index (US$ per cwt)		142.03	145.43
Seven-day Weighted Average FC Index Wt. (lb.)		756	760
Live Fed 5-area Steer Price (US$ per cwt)		122.81	124.87
Feed Grains			
Barley	Lethbridge ($/tonne)	283.00	284.00
	($ per bu.)	6.16	6.18
Corn	Iowa State Average (CDN$/tonne)*	280.44	282.24
	(US$ per bu.)	7.08	7.15
	Omaha, NE (CDN$/tonne)*	284.79	290.93
	(US$ per bu.)	7.19	7.37
Futures			
	March Corn (US$ per bu.) at expiry	6.98¾	7.09
	July Corn (US$ per bu.)	6.85¼	6.99
	February Live Cattle (US$ per cwt)	126.500	126.450
	June Live Cattle (US$ per cwt)	126.275	125.700
	March Feeder Cattle (US$ per cwt)	143.375	145.000
	October Feeder Cattle (US$ per cwt)	159.200	159.100

Sources: Bank of Canada, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship,
Chicago Mercantile Exchange (CME), ICE Futures Canada and USDA Livestock & Grain Market News
* conversion to CDN$ is based on Friday's CDN$ closing rate

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